



BES Tropical Ecology Group

Upcoming Events!

- [GTÖ 2012](#)
- [ATBC 2012: Brasil](#)

Contact:

- [website](#)
- [email](#)
- [twitter](#)

In this issue:

- [BESTEG News](#)
- [INTECOL 2013](#)
- [GTÖ 2012](#)
- [Obituary: Kalko](#)
- [RA, Imperial](#)
- [Earth Institute Fellows](#)
- [SIGEO Ecologist](#)
- [SI Fellowships](#)
- [STRI Fellowships](#)
- [Tropical Papers](#)

BESTEG News

TEG update

Another month, another TEG e-bulletin. The deadline for submissions for INTECOL is drawing close.

We'd very much like to have a tropical session in there! Please contact me if you are interested in putting something together.

TEG Early Career Researcher Meeting 28-30 March 2012

The 6th Early Career Researcher Meeting will take place at Imperial College, Silwood Park, from the 28 to 30th March 2012.

Key-note speakers: Professor [Georgina Mace](#), Professor [Andrew Balmford](#).

During the meeting, we will run a workshop on the Analysis of Ecological Data in R, in collaboration with the [Computational Ecology SIG](#). If you have any topics you would like covered, please let us know.

More details on the TEG website soon!

Tropical Papers

The TEG e-Bulletin is read by over 200 tropical ecologists each month.

Make a bigger impact by sending us the details of your newly published paper and we'll add it to the list.

MEETINGS

INTECOL 2013 Call for symposia

INTECOL: 18-23 August 2013, International Conference Centre, ExCel, London

We invite proposals for symposia for the Congress. Symposia will be a cornerstone of the scientific programme and will have a high profile at the meeting. We are especially keen to receive proposals which focus on the future direction of ecology and present cutting edge, world class science which has broad relevance.

Symposia comprise a keynote speaker (30 minutes), up to 5 other invited speakers (15 minutes each) and facilitated debate/question and answer session. Each Symposium will be allocated 2 hours. The keynote speaker should have a high profile in their field and their talk should focus on future developments in ecological science in their area. This will provide a framework for the rest of the talks in the Symposium.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS 30 November 2011. More details [here](#).

Please return completed application forms to intecol@BritishEcologicalSociety.org or to INTECOL British Ecological Society, Charles Darwin House, 12 Roger Street, London WC1N 2JU. Please use these contact details for all queries.

GTÖ 2012

22-25 Feb 2012, Erlangen, Germany.

In 2012, Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg will host the Annual Conference of the Society for Tropical Ecology (Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie, *gtö*), focusing on the Islands in land- and seascape. The conference (www.gtoe-conference.de) will run from February 22 to 25, 2012 in Erlangen, Germany. The conference aims to maximize interactions among scientists of all disciplines and backgrounds who are interested in tropical biogeography and biodiversity.

The fragmentation of habitats and ecosystems around the tropics poses tremendous problems for maintaining ecosystem functions. Natural islands may serve as model ecosystems in terms of biogeographic patterns and processes in population dynamics and ecosystem functioning. Future climate change, land use changes and increasing pressure by growing local populations land impose additional challenges for the development of successful mitigation and adaptation strategies. The annual conference of the Society for Tropical Ecology (*gtö*) will provide an interdisciplinary platform for discussion, particularly on the following topics: (i) Biogeographic patterns and ecological processes in naturally isolated tropical ecosystems (islands, high mountains), (ii) Processes

and consequences of ecosystem fragmentation for biodiversity and ecosystem services; (iii) Human ecology and management of fragmented tropical ecosystems.

OBITUARY

Elisabeth K.V. Kalko (1962-2011)



Elisabeth K.V. Kalko, staff scientist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and head of the Institute of Experimental Ecology at the University of Ulm in Germany, died in her sleep on Monday, September 26, 2011 during a visit to the Kilimanjaro project of the German Research Foundation (DFG) in Tanzania. Eli's sudden death at the age of 49 was completely unexpected.

Eli Kalko was a tireless and passionate researcher who inspired colleagues and students alike. She was one of the world's leading experts in tropical bats and has published over 100 papers on bat community ecology, echolocation and bat behavior. To see a video about her work, follow this link: <http://youtu.be/TADZHMWr1iU>

Kalko obtained a first degree in biology from the Universität Tübingen in Germany, followed by a PhD in 1991. She held a NATO postdoc at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC, and at STRI. She worked on the DFG programs on tropical diversity and Neotropical bats, and a Heisenberg postdoc in Tübingen. Eli Kalko was appointed STRI staff scientist in 1999. From 2000, she was director and full professor at the Institute of Experimental Ecology at the University of Ulm in Germany. She was also a research associate with the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH). In 2006 she received the award for best university teaching in natural sciences (Landeslehrpreis) in the state of Baden-Württemberg, Germany. Eli was a member of the German National Committee on Global Change Research, the Senate Commission on Biodiversity of the German Research Foundation (DFG), and was elected for life to the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences. She served as councillor for the Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation, vice-president of the Society of Tropical Ecology, and head elect of Diversitas Germany. As editor-in-chief of the international tropical ecology journal *Ecotropica*,

she strengthened the journal's profile considerably.

The tropical research community has suffered a great loss and Eli will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Those who would like to give their condolences to Eli's family can use the following email address: kondolenz.kalko(at)uni-ulm.de

OPPORTUNITIES

Research Associate, Imperial College

Research Associates in Landscape Ecology, Landscape Modelling and Mathematics for Ecology

Three positions are available for five years from 1 January 2012 to analyse, model and predict the biodiversity consequences of land use change in the wet tropics. You will work as part of team investigating the role of landscape ontogeny and habitat fragmentation in determining spatial and temporal patterns of biodiversity, with a focus on community ecological principles.

The positions are funded by the European Research Council and will be based in the Division of Biology at Silwood Park Campus, Division of Biology, Imperial College London.

The successful candidates will all have strong analytical, statistical or modelling backgrounds, and experience with software development in the R statistical computing language is desirable. Experience in modelling land use change, networks or biodiversity would be advantage, as would a background in theoretical community ecology or landscape ecology.

Informal inquiries (with CV) to Dr. Robert Ewers: r.ewers@imperial.ac.uk

Application deadline is November 22.

Post-doc: Earth Institute Fellows

The Earth Institute, Columbia University seeks outstanding post-doctoral scholars to apply to the Earth Institute Fellows Program. We ask your help in identifying the most promising individuals to join a dynamic research environment where multi-disciplinary research into the global challenges of sustainable development is fostered.

Fellowship applicants should be recent Ph.D., JD or MD recipients. The program accepts applications from individuals qualified in a core discipline such as earth sciences, biological sciences, engineering sciences, economics and other social sciences, law and health sciences who wish to broaden their research through interactions with other fields. Those who have an existing interdisciplinary background can engage that experience with experts at the Earth Institute. All Fellows work to develop

research programs that address the central issues in science, engineering and the policy dimensions of sustainable development including the causes and consequences of poverty, hunger, disease, water resource management, energy options, public health, climate change, and environmental degradation.

Earth Institute Fellows design their own research agendas in collaboration with a senior mentor who is an expert in their field of study. Examples of past and current projects include: theoretical modeling of disease-driven poverty traps, sustainable energy development, agricultural management systems and crop response to climate variation and extremes, links between drought and conflict, nutrition programs for people with HIV/AIDS in resource limited settings, seismic vulnerability and informal housing in rapidly expanding urban centers, agent-based modeling using statistical learning methods and its application to water management problems, modeling of transport and land use in rapidly growing cities, and analysis of environmental policy at the national and at the international scale.

Fellows work in a research center or in a program area that is best suited to their individual research direction. Cross-cutting Initiative themes are emphasized. One or more senior scholars act as mentors throughout the fellowship to guide the Fellows' work. Fellows attend a unique series of seminars, dinners with Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute, and other special events that explore key interdisciplinary issues, bring Fellows together as a community, and allow them to meet a diverse array of Columbia faculty and researchers.

Fellowship applications are posted online August 22, 2011 and due by November 15, 2011 for consideration for fellowships beginning in the summer or fall of 2012. Fellowships are typically awarded for 24 months.

Additional information on the Earth Institute Fellows Program and an online application are available on the Earth Institute Fellows website at <http://redir.targetx.com/cgi-bin/email/redir.cgi?id=0000904586-126447545>. Additional information on the Earth Institute is at <http://redir.targetx.com/cgi-bin/email/redir.cgi?id=0000904584-126447545>.

Forest Ecologist

The Smithsonian Institution Global Earth Observatories (SIGEO)/Center for Tropical Forest Science (CTFS) is a voluntary consortium of research institutions, forestry agencies, universities and NGOs responsible for managing and overseeing the long-term censuses of woody species on large plots in temperate and tropical forests across the world. SIGEO-CTFS represents a major research initiative in the science portfolio of the Smithsonian Institution. This network of large-scale forest plots is uniquely positioned to enable scientists to mea-

sure long-term fluctuations in primary productivity of forests around the globe, to measure changes in the abundance and distribution of biological diversity, and to assess the impact of changing environmental conditions on forests of the world. SIGEO/CTFS consists of 42 standardized, large-scale demographic tree plots established in 21 countries, which is monitoring more than 4.5 million trees of about 8,500 species.

Forest Ecologist

The Smithsonian Institution seeks a Forest Ecologist to be located at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI), National Zoological Park, VA, USA. The position is responsible for conducting independent research in the areas of: ecosystem-climate interactions, global change science, energy-water-carbon exchanges, ecohydroecology, ecosystem ecology, and/or dynamic vegetation modeling. The position oversees novel research that utilizes SCBI's 25-ha SIGEO forest dynamics plot with the pending and co-located NEON Fundamental Instrument Unit (including eddy covariance tower, soil arrays, aquatic arrays, etc.), and oversees the climatological data collection program that is being implemented across the full SIGEO-CTFS network.

Candidates should hold a PhD in ecology or related discipline, have an exceptional record of research and scholarly publication, and be able to work in a highly collaborative environment.

This is a full-time, permanent federal position and is open to all U.S. Citizens or U.S. Nationals. Apply online at <http://www.si.edu/ohr>. Announcement number: 12A-MR-297166-DEU-NZP or 12A-MR-297166-MPA-NZP. Closing date for applications is 25 November 2011.

SI Fellowships

Smithsonian Institution Fellowship Program

SI 10-Week Graduate Student Fellowships (deadline 15 JAN 2012): For graduate students or PhD students not advanced to candidacy to carry out research under the guidance of a Smithsonian staff member.

SI Postdoctoral, Senior Postdoctoral and Predoctoral Fellowships (deadline 15 JAN 2012): Postdoctoral Fellowships are offered to scholars who have held the Ph. D. degree or equivalent for less than seven years. Senior Postdoctoral Fellowships are offered to candidates who have had their PhD for seven years or longer. Predoctoral Fellowships are offered to PhD students advanced to candidacy. SI Senior Postdoctoral Fellowships and SI Postdoctoral Fellowships can be up to two years depending on research proposed.

SI Molecular Evolution Postdoctoral Fellowships (deadline: 15 JAN 2012): For scholars who have held a doctoral degree or equivalent for less than seven years, to support

research projects on an aspect of molecular evolution, population genetics, or systematics. Fellowships are for 24 months.

More information on SI programs: <http://www.si.edu/research+study> or contact siofg@si.edu

SI application procedure: <http://www.si.edu/ofg/Applications/SIFELL/SIFELLapp.htm>

STRI Fellowships

STRI Fellowships and Internships

STRI Earl S. Tupper 3-Year Postdoctoral Fellowship (deadline 15 of January 2012): Applications should include a research proposal with budget, curriculum vitae, 2 letters of recommendation, and names of 3 additional references. Note: candidates applying to this program may also apply to the SI Postdoctoral Program listed above.

STRI Short Term Fellowships (deadlines: March 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15 of each year). Support is provided to carry out short-term research projects at STRI facilities.

STRI Fellowship and Internship Program for students in Latin America (deadlines: March 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15). Support is provided for short-term projects and internships. Candidates must be from universities in Latin America, particularly Central America and Panama. For more information visit: http://www.stri.org/espanol/educacion_becas/becas/becas_corto_plazo.php

Stanley Rand STRI Fellowship Program (deadlines: March 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15). Support is provided for short-term research at STRI, focused on animal behavior, natural history, evolutionary biology, plant and animal ecology and environmental monitoring. Latin American students are especially encouraged to apply.

For more information and instructions about STRI fellowships and internships visit www.stri.si.edu

PUBLICATIONS

Newest publications on tropical ecology in the BES Journals

Céréghino, R. et al. (2011), Ant-plant mutualisms promote functional diversity in phytotelm communities. *Functional Ecology*, 25: 954-963.

Zandonà, E. et al. (2011), Diet quality and prey selectivity correlate with life histories and predation regime in Trinidadian guppies. *Functional Ecology*, 25: 964-973.

da Silva, E.V. et al. (2011), Functional specialization of Eucalyptus fine roots: contrasting potential uptake rates for nitrogen, potassium and calcium tracers at varying soil depths. *Functional Ecology*, 25: 996-1006.

Fox, R.J. & Bellwood, D.R. (2011), Unconstrained by the clock? Plasticity of diel activity rhythm in a tropical reef fish, *Siganus lineatus*. *Functional Ecology*, 25: 1096-1105.

Réjou-Méchain, M. et al. (2011), Spatial aggregation of tropical trees at multiple spatial scales. *Journal of Ecology*, 99: 1373-1381.

Héroult, B. et al. (2011), Functional traits shape ontogenetic growth trajectories of rain forest tree species. *Journal of Ecology*, 99: 1431-1440.

Kanagaraj, R. et al. (2011), Tropical tree species assemblages in topographical habitats change in time and with life stage. *Journal of Ecology*, 99: 1441-1452.

Newest tropical papers in 'lesser' journals

Mumby, P.J. et al. (2011) Temporal clustering of tropical cyclones and its ecosystem impacts. *PNAS* 108: 17626-17630

Hietz, P. et al. (2011) Long-Term Change in the Nitrogen Cycle of Tropical Forests. *Science*, 334: 664-666.

Hirota, M. et al. (2011) Global Resilience of Tropical Forest and Savanna to Critical Transitions. *Science*, 334:232-235.

Pan, Y. et al. (2011) A Large and Persistent Carbon Sink in the World's Forests. *Science*, 333: 988-993.

Kraft, N.J.B. et al. (2011) Disentangling the Drivers of β Diversity Along Latitudinal and Elevational Gradients. *Science*, 333: 1755-1758.

Odadi, W.O. et al. (2011) African Wild Ungulates Compete with or Facilitate Cattle Depending on Season. *Science*, 333: 1753-1755.

Gibson, L. et al. (2011) Primary forests are irreplaceable for sustaining tropical biodiversity. *Nature* 478, 378-381

Sayer, E.J. et al. (2011) Soil carbon release enhanced by increased tropical forest litterfall. *Nature Climate Change* 1, 304-307.



Random Tropical Photo: Red-and-green macaws (*Ara chloroptera*) in Manu National Park, Peru. ©mongabay.com